

(Please detach at perforation and retain this information for future reference.)

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FOR EDUCATION BENEFITS

**PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION:** No benefits can be paid unless a completed application has been received (38 U.S.C. 1713). The information requested on this form is necessary to determine your eligibility to education benefits. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 3301) and may be disclosed outside the VA only if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22, Compensation, Pension, Education and Rehabilitation Records-VA, published in the Federal Register.

**RESPONDENT BURDEN:** Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1/2 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the VA Clearance Officer (732), 810 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20420; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2900-0098), Washington, D.C. 20503. Do NOT send requests for benefits to these addresses.

1. **GENERAL** - Read this information and instruction sheet carefully and then complete Items 1 thru 31 on the application fully and accurately. Show "N/A" (not applicable) where appropriate.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

a. To qualify for educational assistance you must be either:

(1) The son, daughter or spouse of a veteran who is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability, or the son, daughter or spouse of an individual on active duty who has been listed for a total of more than 90 days as missing in action, captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power; or

(2) The son, daughter or surviving spouse of a veteran who died of a service-connected disability or who died while a service-connected disability was rated total and permanent in nature.

b. Eligibility for educational assistance will be terminated in the event the VA determines that the person on whose account benefits are claimed is no longer totally disabled, or the VA is notified that the person is no longer listed as captured, missing in action or forcibly detained.

c. Generally, the period of eligibility for a son or daughter is between the ages of 18 and 26 years. In certain instances, it is possible to begin training before age 18, and to continue after age 26. The marriage of a son or daughter is not a bar to this benefit.

d. A spouse may use educational benefits during the 10-year period after eligibility is found. A surviving spouse may use these benefits during a 10-year period after the veteran's death, or 10 years after the VA determines the veteran's death was caused by a service-connected disability. Eligibility will terminate in the event a spouse is divorced from the veteran or in the event of remarriage by a surviving spouse.

*NOTE: "Son" or "daughter" includes stepson or stepdaughter.*

### 3. ENTITLEMENT

a. The Dependents' Educational Assistance program offers eligible persons up to 45 months of full-time training benefits.

b. Entitlement is reduced by 1 month for each month of full-time training. Proportionate reductions are made if training is less than full-time.

c. Persons who are entitled to benefits under more than one of the VA educational assistance programs may receive an overall maximum of 48 months of benefits.

4. **COUNSELING** - Educational-vocational counseling from professionally qualified VA counselors is available to you. Counseling can help you assess your abilities and interests, learn about opportunities in different fields of work, and determine the kind of training and work which will best meet your needs and desires. You may request a counseling appointment by completing Item 24. There is no charge for counseling, but unless counseling is required (see paragraphs 5b and 5c below), any necessary travel will be at your expense. **COUNSELING IS NOT AVAILABLE IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, EXCEPT IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.**

### 5. COURSES AND PROGRAMS YOU MAY PURSUE

a. Any eligible person may pursue postsecondary courses approved by the State approving agency at a vocational or technical school, business college, college or university. Benefits are also payable while pursuing an approved apprenticeship, on-the-job

training, cooperative or farm cooperative program. Courses may be taken in a foreign country if they lead to a standard college degree or its equivalent, and vocational courses may also be taken in the Republic of the Philippines.

b. A son and daughter who is under 18, and who has not completed high school, must have his or her program of education or training approved by a VA counselor before educational assistance benefits can be authorized.

c. Specialized restorative training can be approved for a son or daughter, and specialized vocational training can be approved for any eligible person, if it is determined through VA counseling that a specialized program is needed to overcome the effects of a physical or mental handicap.

d. An eligible person who has not received a high school diploma or equivalent can pursue approved secondary-level programs. An eligible person can also pursue refresher, remedial, or deficiency courses that are needed for admission into an education program.

e. A spouse or surviving spouse may pursue an approved home study course. Information on home study courses is available at the nearest VA regional office.

(1) If you are considering enrollment in a home study course or combination correspondence-residence course, be sure that the field of study is suitable to your abilities and interests before signing a contract with the school. You should consider your decision carefully since the contract you sign may require you to pay for all or the majority of the course even though you complete only a portion of it.

(2) The law provides that a contract for enrollment in a home study course must be affirmed by a student after more than 10 days have elapsed following the date the contract was signed. No payments of VA benefits will be authorized for any lessons serviced by the school prior to the date of affirmation of the contract. If you decide not to enroll in a correspondence course after signing a contract, but before you sign the affirmation, you are entitled to receive a full refund from the school of any payment made for the course.

### 6. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE

a. If you attend school at a half-time rate or more, you will be entitled to receive a monthly allowance to help you with the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, and other costs of school attendance. If you pursue courses at less than a half-time rate, you will generally receive a single payment based on the tuition and fees charged for your course(s), not to exceed the maximum rate established for quarter-time or half-time training, as applicable.

b. You will generally be paid through breaks between standard terms if the break does not span a full calendar month. However, you may wish to save entitlement by asking the VA not to make payments for any breaks. Except for advance payments, checks are normally sent at the first of each month for the previous month's training.

c. If you pursue a course that does not lead to a standard college degree, too many absences can affect your payments. For example, if your course(s) meets 5 days per week, your monthly payments will be adjusted if you accumulate more than 30 absences in a 12-month period. If a course is taught on a term basis rather than as a continuous enrollment, when payments are made for the breaks between terms, generally an absence will be counted for each day that school would otherwise have been in session.